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Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 52/123 of 12 December 1997, on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, *inter alia*: called upon the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities; requested the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation among United Nations programmes and agencies on activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities; urged all treaty bodies to give due regard, within their respective mandates, to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities; called upon all special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations involving minorities; and encouraged intergovernmental and non-governmental

organizations to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

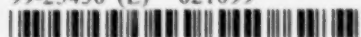
2. By the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of that request.

II. Provision of qualified expertise on minority issues

3. Under the leadership of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation is aimed at assisting Governments, at their request, in promoting and protecting human rights at the national and regional levels. In the area of minority protection, Governments may request expertise on minority issues, including the prevention of disputes, to assist in the existing or potential situations involving minorities.

4. Although there was no specific request for assistance in the area of minority protection during the period under review, a number of projects undertaken are relevant and

* A/54/150.



focus primarily on the strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, human rights training of law enforcement officials, the legal community and members of civil society, including non-governmental organizations. The following projects have an indirect impact on greater respect for minority rights: the provision of assistance aimed at the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Office in Latvia; the provision of expertise to key institutions in South Africa (Human Rights Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, and Ministry of Safety and Security); the organization of a seminar for human rights non-governmental organizations and workshops for governmental officials, non-governmental organizations, educators and the legal community in Armenia; human rights training for national police agencies in Eastern Slavonia, Croatia; the provision of practical assistance to the Parliament and relevant ministries in finalizing a national plan of action in the field of human rights and establishing a national human rights institution in Azerbaijan; and the organization of a national training workshop for human rights non-governmental organizations and the Government of the Russian Federation on the human rights treaty system.

III. Cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with United Nations agencies and programmes on activities related to the promotion and protection of minority issues

5. Collaboration and cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations agencies and programmes has, during the period under review, been strengthened within the framework of the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. During the fourth and fifth sessions of the Working Group, held from 25 to 29 May 1998 and 25 to 31 May 1999, respectively, a number of agencies shared information on their activities with the participants.

6. The work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) with regard to the implementation of minority rights centred on the international labour standards and their supervision, technical assistance, and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Specific mention was made of the ILO publication on affirmative action in employment of ethnic minorities. The activities of

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the area of minority protection included the UNESCO programme on the culture of peace, the promotion of linguistic pluralism, education for peace and inter-cultural dialogue, as well as the preservation of the common heritage of mankind, including traditional and popular cultures of minorities. The relevant activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees included the preparation and implementation of nationality legislation, assistance to individuals in making their claims, the training of governmental officials and staff, and addressing the root causes of population displacement. The work of the United Nations Children's Fund focused in particular on the promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, *inter alia*, article 30 on the promotion and protection of the rights of children belonging to minorities. Such promotional work is being organized through schools and the media, including studies on children and families of ethnic minorities, and the strengthening of cooperation in the area of tolerance education projects. The World Health Organization (WHO) was addressing the key principles upon which fundamental human rights are based, such as equity, dignity, non-discrimination and universality. One of the major goals of WHO was therefore to address the health needs of the under-served and those who are already vulnerable to discrimination, such as minorities.

7. Further details on the activities of agencies are contained in the reports of the Working Group on Minorities on its fourth and fifth sessions (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/18 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/21).

IV. Treaty bodies

8. During the period under review, United Nations committees continued to monitor the observance by States parties of the minority specific rights contained in international human rights instruments. These include article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the rights of persons belonging to minorities to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion or to use their own language; articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the right to education and to take part in cultural life; articles 2, 5 and 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on, respectively, affirmative action in respect of groups that have suffered from discriminatory practices, the elimination of racial discrimination without distinction, including on the basis of national or ethnic origin, and on effective methods in the

fields of teaching, education and culture with a view to promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and groups; and article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the rights of children belonging to minorities.

9. On the basis of the reports received from States parties, the committees entrusted with overseeing the effective implementation of the above-mentioned international instruments, namely, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, adopted concluding observations on the implementation of minority-specific rights. In particular, the committees commended States parties on the measures adopted in the field of minority protection, raised a number of issues of concern in connection with the reports, and made recommendations calling upon the Governments concerned to adopt measures to improve the situation.

10. In their concluding observations, the committees welcomed the following measures adopted by States parties: the constitutional, legislative and administrative measures taken to respect and ensure the rights of persons belonging to minorities, in particular their right to develop their language and enjoy their own culture; the existence of advisory boards for minority affairs; the right of primary and secondary level students to be taught in their mother tongue; the increase in minority participation in political, administrative and cultural institutions; and the adoption of bilateral treaties concluded between States to protect respective minority groups. With regard to the non-discrimination provisions contained in the international instruments, the committees welcomed the adoption by a number of States of anti-discrimination legislation; the positive measures taken by some States in the field of law reform in order to combat various forms of racial discrimination against ethnic groups; the affirmative action policy adopted towards certain ethnic communities; the teaching of children and adolescents, and public awareness campaigns, promoting tolerance and openness towards ethnic minorities; and the prevention of discrimination against children on the basis of ethnic origin.

11. With reference to a number of the reports of State parties, the Committees expressed concern in regard to the following: a number of States parties deny the existence of minority groups within their territory; the destruction of land traditionally belonging to minority groups; the lack of education provided in minority languages; and the exclusive use of the national language in areas of public activity. With regard to racial discrimination, the Committees expressed

concern at the continuing de facto discrimination against members of certain minority groups in the area of housing, health and employment; the denial of citizenship to many minority groups; and the persistence of racial hatred and acts of violence towards persons belonging to minority groups.

12. In their concluding observations, the relevant committees recommended to States parties that: racial attitudes be overcome and that the Government initiate proceedings where any pattern of discrimination is identified; education be provided in minority languages; members of minority communities be guaranteed the enjoyment of their right to cultural identity and traditional livelihood; persons belonging to minorities be given equality of treatment with the majority; minority participation in the design, organization and functioning of the educational system, in particular at the secondary and higher educational levels, and the training of teachers of minority languages in public establishments be encouraged; free compulsory education be provided; the rights of all minority groups with regard to their right to participate in national political and economic life and to practise and teach their culture be fully respected; and, measures to prevent discrimination against children belonging to minorities be reinforced.

13. Further details are available in the more recent reports of the Human Rights Committee,¹ the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination³ and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.⁴

General comment on article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

14. At its sixty-sixth session, the Human Rights Committee completed consideration of its general comment on article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to freedom of movement. The text of the general comment will be formally adopted by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session, to be held at Geneva from 18 October to 5 November 1999.

15. The general comment provides an interpretation of article 12 which refers to the right of everyone lawfully within the territory of a State to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence, the freedom to leave any country, including his own, and not to be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

16. A number of issues included in the general comment are of specific relevance to the rights of persons belonging

to minorities. For example, the Committee has held that an alien who entered the State illegally but whose status has been regularized, must be considered to be lawfully within the territory and should therefore be accorded the same rights as those accorded to nationals. Article 12 has also been interpreted as implying the right to reside in a place of one's choice within the territory, which includes protection against all forms of forced internal displacement, exclusion and expulsion. Freedom of movement may, however, be limited with regard to the wish to settle in areas inhabited by minority communities. Furthermore, no restrictions on the right to freedom of movement may be made on the basis of distinctions of any kind, including on the basis of language, religion, national or social origin. Finally, the right to enter one's own country implies prohibition of enforced population transfers or mass expulsions to other countries and a State party must not, by stripping a person of nationality or by expelling an individual to a third country, arbitrarily prevent this person from returning to his or her own country.

V. Special rapporteurs and special representatives

Special Rapporteur on the question of religious intolerance

17. The Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, Abdelfattah Amor, in his report on incidents and governmental action in all parts of the world inconsistent with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (E/CN.4/1999/58 and Add.1-2), continued to provide information on the respect of the rights of minorities to profess and practise their own religion.

18. In his report, the Special Rapporteur classified the communications received during the period under review as follows:

(a) Violations of the principle of non-discrimination in matters of religion and belief: *Islam*: Afghanistan; *Scientology*: Germany; *non-Muslims*: northern part of Cyprus; *Protestant Churches*: Spain; *Sunni*: Islamic Republic of Iran; and *religious minorities other than the Russian Orthodox Church*: Turkmenistan;

(b) Violations of the principle of intolerance in matters of religion and belief: *Islam*: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Myanmar; *Jehovah's Witnesses*: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria; *Christians*: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Egypt, Malaysia,

Myanmar, Sri Lanka; *non-Muslims*: northern part of Cyprus; *Sunni*: Islamic Republic of Iran; *Protestant Churches*: Mexico, Sri Lanka; *Hinduism*: Sri Lanka; *religious minorities other than the Russian Orthodox Church*: Turkmenistan;

(c) Violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief: *Baha'is*: Islamic Republic of Iran; *non-Muslims*: Mauritania;

(d) Violations of freedom to manifest one's religion or belief: *Christians*: Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sudan; *Buddhism*: China, Greece, Kazakhstan; *Jehovah's Witnesses*: Russian Federation; *Baha'is*: Islamic Republic of Iran; *Shiites*: Malaysia; *Judaism*: Latvia; *religions not officially recognized by the State*: Republic of Moldova, Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(e) Violations of freedom to dispose of religious property: *Principal religious communities*: Albania, Belarus, Eritrea, Georgia; *non-Muslims*: northern part of Cyprus; *Christians*: Morocco, Myanmar, Romania; *Islam*: Myanmar; *Catholic Church*: Ukraine;

(f) Violations of physical integrity and health of persons (religious figures and the faithful): *Christians*: Angola, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey, Yemen, Uzbekistan; *Buddhism*: Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka; *Jehovah's Witnesses*: Russian Federation, Georgia, Kazakhstan; *Baha'is*: Islamic Republic of Iran; *Shiites*: Iraq; *Muslims*: Sri Lanka;

(g) Violations affecting women belonging to minorities: *Islam*: Afghanistan, India; *trokosi (slaves of God)*: Ghana.

19. In his conclusions and recommendations, the Special Rapporteur pointed out that although there was a decline in anti-religious State policies and the manipulation of religion in the interest of a political ideology, an upsurge of State policies directed against minorities in matters of religion and belief, and in particular against unrecognized minorities, namely, sects or new religious movements, was noticed.

20. In his report on his visit to Viet Nam (E/CN.4/1999/58/Add.2), the Special Rapporteur collected information on the main religious communities in Viet Nam, namely, Buddhist, Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao.

21. In that report, the Special Rapporteur noted that it was not possible, in Viet Nam, to establish and maintain religious communities freely and independently, with the exception of the Catholic Church and most of the Protestant

denominations. With regard to the Buddhist, Hoa Hao, Cao Dai and Muslim communities, the standard practice seemed to be to establish organizations which are controlled by the authorities and/or, which have chosen to accommodate their concerns. Consequently, the unofficial organizations are prohibited from carrying out any religious activities, subject to penalties by the authorities in the form of various measures, including surveillance, harassment, house arrest, administrative detention, prison, re-education camp, and confiscation of religious property.

22. The Special Rapporteur, in his report, drew the attention of the international community to the fact that all of the religious communities are prevented from conducting their religious activities freely and are therefore subject to interference from authorities. For example, the training of the clergy of the religious communities is subject to a *numerus clausus* and their candidatures must be approved by the authorities. The appointment of the clergy and the inauguration of the highest religious dignitaries must be approved by the authorities. The movement of clergy from different communities in order to attend religious functions in geographical areas not usually under their jurisdiction is subject to approval by the authorities, and the building and renovation of the places of worship of religious communities is subject to approval by the authorities. The Special Rapporteur also expressed concern that the religious prisoners belonging to the various religious communities (to the Special Rapporteur's knowledge, Buddhist, Catholics, Cao Dais, Hoa Haos and Protestants) were deprived of their religious freedom in that they were prevented from practising their religion.

23. In his conclusions, the Special Rapporteur was of the view that there should be no controls of the religious communities in Viet Nam, whatever their official status, which could potentially undermine the right to freedom of religion and belief and its manifestations, in particular through limitations, constraints, prohibitions and sanctions against religious leaders, individuals, organizations, places of worship and other religious property, publications and other activities.

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

24. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Asma Jahangir, in her report (E/CN.4/1999/39 and Add.1) continued to: examine situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; respond effectively to information received; and follow up

recommendations made in reports after visits to particular countries. The Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur to pay special attention to violations of the right to life, *inter alia*, of persons belonging to ethnic minorities. In that regard, the Special Rapporteur acted on behalf of persons considered to belong to national, ethnic, religious and/or linguistic minorities in their countries.

25. During the period under review, both urgent appeals and individual allegations concerning violations of the right to life of persons belonging to minorities were transmitted to relevant Governments, including the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on behalf of 80 ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo; Sri Lanka, on behalf of more than 20 persons belonging to the Tamil minority; Iraq, on behalf of four Shia Muslims; Nepal, concerning the alleged death of a Tibetan monk; and China, where one Buddhist monk was said to have died as a result of torture. In addition, communications were sent to: Brazil, on behalf of an indigenous activist from the Xucuru population; Colombia, regarding death threats received by four indigenous activists and for the alleged killings of two other indigenous activists; Guatemala, where four individuals working for the Mayan Defence of Guatemala reportedly received death threats; Honduras, on behalf of two members of the Garifunas group; Myanmar, regarding the reports of 168 deaths of people of Karen ethnicity; and Indonesia, concerning the death of an East Timorese woman and the situation facing the ethnic Chinese minority.

Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

26. The Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maurice Danby Copithorne, in his report (E/CN.4/1999/32) drew attention to the fact that while the Iranian Constitution assures minorities equal status, the ordinary laws contain numerous discriminatory provisions.

27. With regard to the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities, the Special Representative recommended that the Government declare a commitment to the implementation of both the Iranian Constitution with its relevant equality provisions (arts. 14, 15, 19 and 20) and of international standards, including the application of the principles contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

28. He noted that some situations might require special attention, in particular the reported occasional clashes in areas of mixed population of Sunni and Shiites, chiefly in the western part of Azerbaijan, along the Persian Gulf and in Sistan-Baluchistan province. While such tension existed before the Islamic revolution in some areas, it appeared to have worsened significantly since that time.

29. In his report, the Special Representative welcomed the reported elimination of discrimination against Baha'i youth for enrolment in the pre-university year at the high-school level. According to reports, however, their entry to universities continued to be refused. The Special Representative expressed particular concern at the human rights situation of discrimination and even persecution of the Baha'i minority, including arbitrary detentions, arrests, raids on homes and confiscation of property. He also noted the continued restriction or denial of the freedom of the Baha'is to travel outside the Islamic Republic of Iran.

30. The Special Representative noted that the overall situation of the Baha'is had not improved and had in some aspects even deteriorated. In his conclusions, the Special Representative once again urged the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fulfil his outstanding recommendations (A/53/423 and Corr.1, para. 45) as well as those of the Special Rapporteur on the question of religious intolerance (see E/CN.4/1996/95/Add.2).

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

31. In his report (E/CN.4/1999/42), the Special Rapporteur, Jiri Dienstbier, provided an overview of the situation and the status of minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

32. With reference to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Special Rapporteur noted that human rights violations were directly linked to the failure of the parties to fully implement the structure and mechanisms agreed upon at Dayton, Ohio, United States of America. The implementation of annex 7 of the agreement, providing for the return of refugees and displaced persons, had been poor, with an unacceptably low number of minority returns throughout the country. The Special Rapporteur observed that three years after the conclusion of the Dayton agreement, conditions were still deeply unsatisfactory for the return of minorities. The main

obstacles to returns remained inadequate security, and failure adequately to protect economic and social rights. Another issue of concern to the Special Rapporteur was the evictions of illegal occupants, necessary for the reinstatement of returnees to their pre-war homes in Republika Srpska. The situation of persons illegally evicted from their property during the war, who remain at Banja Luka, remained practically unresolved.

33. The Special Rapporteur concluded that while some improvements in the situation of human rights could be observed, the authorities and political leaders in power in Bosnia and Herzegovina had continued to undermine efforts aimed at integrating the country, which is divided along ethnic lines. He recommended that efforts to improve security should be stepped up and property rights should be respected. A high priority should be given to the resolution of the situation of the illegally evicted persons in Banja Luka and other municipalities in the Republika Srpska.

34. With reference to the situation in the Republic of Croatia, the Special Rapporteur reported that the Government had adopted recommendations for legal reforms related to the return process, which were designed to overcome existing discriminatory legal provisions that had impeded return and repossession of property.

35. While acknowledging the progress made, the Special Rapporteur recommended that the question of tenancy rights be addressed by the Government of Croatia in order to foster the return of persons of the Serb minority to their former homes in urban areas, and that the Government should provide all housing commissions with alternative accommodations for equitable distribution. The Special Rapporteur urged the Government to undertake reconstruction and economic revitalization projects which directly benefit all ethnicities.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

36. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Rajsoomer Lallah, observed, in his report (E/CN.4/1999/35) that the phenomenon of displacement would appear to be limited largely, if not exclusively, to ethnic minorities. The problem was not new and originated mainly from the absence of a political solution dating back to colonial times and before. The ceasefire agreements concluded in recent years were a beginning to a solution but were likely to be fruitless until serious and meaningful measures were taken to engage in a political dialogue which

included the ethnic minorities. The Special Rapporteur mentioned that none of the displaced persons living in Myanmar or in Thailand would be able to return home immediately, since their houses and land had been destroyed and a general feeling of insecurity and fear further prevented their return.

37. The Special Rapporteur pointed out that the military solution adopted by the Government in the ethnic areas had become a serious problem rather than a solution. A political solution in the ethnic areas in the context of political dialogue, recommended by the Special Rapporteur in paragraph 79 of his previous report (E/CN.4/1998/70) had become urgent in order to prevent a worsening of the situation.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq

38. In his report (E/CN.4/1999/37) the Special Rapporteur, Max van der Stoep expressed concern at the continuing violations of human rights in Iraq, including, *inter alia*, the imposition of oppressive measures directed in particular at ethnic and religious minorities. He referred specifically to the military attacks by the Government against civilian settlements in the southern governorates of Al-Nassiriya, Amara and Basra.

39. He also reported on the murders of two internationally respected Shiite religious scholars, Grand Ayatollah Shaykh Mirza Al-Gharawi and Ayatollah Shaykh Murtada Al-Burujerdi. He drew to the attention of the international community that, as a part of a policy of intimidation against the religious minorities, eight Shiite clerics had allegedly been sentenced to death.

40. With regard to the human rights situation of the Kurds of the governorate of Kirkuk, he was concerned about the continuing practices of the Iraqi Government to implement its policy of Arabization through a process of internal deportation aimed at the forced relocation of the non-Arab population, especially the Kurds, Turkmen and Assyrians living in Kirkuk. Other discriminatory measures against the non-Arab citizens and forced Arabization are believed to be applied, along with the deportation process, aimed at decreasing the proportion of non-Arab citizens in the oil-rich region of Kirkuk.

VI. Non-governmental organizations

41. Minority Rights Group (MRG) has provided information on its training sessions on the minority specific rights contained in international human rights instruments and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Minority Rights Group is an international human rights organization based in London which works to secure justice for minorities suffering discrimination and prejudice and achieve the peaceful coexistence of majority and minority communities.

42. Since the inception of the Working Group on Minorities, Minority Rights Group has held a well-established, one-week training seminar for minorities during the week prior to the sessions of the Working Group. Over the past two years, about 30 participants have attended the seminar, from countries such as Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, India, Israel, Kenya, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, Thailand, Ukraine and Uganda. In this connection, training materials on minority rights have been developed by Minority Rights Group, together with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. On several occasions, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has provided trainers on United Nations mechanisms.

43. Feedback from the trainees, trainers, members of the Working Group and United Nations staff has indicated that these training sessions have considerably strengthened the minority attendance and participation in the Working Group, and increased the quality of the contributions to its deliberations. Many of the minority participants are able to arrange one-to-one meetings, outside the formal sessions, with governmental representatives and experts. Many participants have also reported that the training has helped them enter into dialogue with their Governments about minority rights issues.

44. As well as attending the training itself, the programme allows for minority participants to organize follow-up activities in their countries. This not only ensures an ongoing process, but also acts as a multiplier so that a wider range of those involved in minority community organizations are aware of the United Nations mechanisms and the potential for dialogue. Some examples of follow-up activities include awareness-raising on the rights of the Pygmy minority and encouraging them to participate in public life in Cameroon; awareness-raising of issues affecting the Niger Delta community of Nigeria; workshop on international instruments for the promotion of minority rights among the

grass-roots minority refugee community in Nepal; promoting knowledge and implementation of minority rights in Myanmar; and a series of workshops on the conformity with national laws and regulations of the situation of the tribal minorities in Thailand.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 40*, vols. I and II (A/53/40).

² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 2* (E/1998/22-E/C.12/1997/10); and *ibid.*, 1999, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1999/22-E/C.12/1998/26).

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/52/18); and *ibid.*, *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/53/18).

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/53/41).
